



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

G-

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,569	10/16/2001	James F. Teran	13817-2	7873
7590	02/03/2004		EXAMINER	
SHELDON & MAK			CORBIN, ARTHUR L	
Attn: David A. Farah, M.D.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
225 South Lake Avenue, Suite 900				
Pasadena, CA 91101			1761	

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/982,569 TERAN		
Examiner	ARTHUR L. CORBIN 1761 CJO		
	Group Art Unit		

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1-23-02, 6-14-02, 3-17-03

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) 1-18, 20-27, 30-34 & 37 is/are objected to.

Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

All Some* None of the:

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachments(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 1761

1. Claims 1-18, 20-27, 30-34 and 37 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, lines 4-5, “; and ... consists” should be changed to “consisting”. In claims 2-18, 20-27, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 37, “where” should be changed to “wherein”. In claims 22 and 23 “ratio of weight” should be changed to “weight ratio”. In claims 26 and 27, “of the” should be changed to “by”. In claim 32, “in” should be added after “vacuum”. Appropriate correction is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 4-6 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 30 and 32 are indefinite in reciting “near vacuum” or “relative vacuum” since it is not clear what is intended by these terms. Claim 31 is indefinite in reciting “about between about”, which can be corrected by canceling “about between”. Claims 4-6 are misdescriptive in reciting “composition” (line 1) since claims 4-6 are method claims.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made

Art Unit: 1761

5. Claims 1-12 and 14-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teran (5,512,015) in view Delaney.

Teran discloses tenderizing beef by injecting the beef with a composition including water, salt, natural flavor, a protective enzyme mixture consisting of bromelina, ficin and papain, and a processing aid, e.g. sodium phosphate. After injection, the meat is vacuum tumbled at 13 rpm, vacuum bagged in a polymer bag and then cooked. It would have been obvious to substitute chicken for the beef in Teran since it is old to tenderize beef or chicken with a proteolytic enzyme composition including bromelin and/or papain, as evidenced by Delaney (column 4, lines 5-8). Finding the optimum amounts of each component (claims 1-6, 9-11, 14-17, 20-23, 26 and 27) and the optimum processing conditions (claims 34 and 37) would require nothing more than routine experimentation by one reasonably skilled in this art.

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 1-38 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-40 of U.S. Patent No.

•6,537,598 in view of Delaney. It would have been obvious to substitute chicken for the beef in the process claimed in Teran for the reasoning set forth in paragraph No. 5 above.

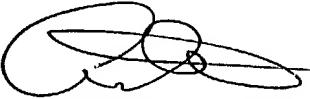
8. Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Arthur L. Corbin whose telephone number is (571) 272-1399. The examiner can generally be reached on Tuesday--Friday from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on (571) 272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-0987.

A. Corbin/dh
January 28, 2004


ARTHUR L. CORBIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1-29-04